

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ENRIQUE DIAZ,)	No. C 12-05898 EJD (PR)
)	
Plaintiff,)	ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH LEAVE
)	TO AMEND
vs.)	
)	
R. BINKELE, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

Plaintiff, a state prisoner at Salinas Valley State Prison, filed the instant civil rights action in pro se pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis will be granted in a separate written order.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be

1 liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.
2 1988).

3 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
4 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was
5 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the
6 color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

7 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

8 This case involves Plaintiff's desire for a classification status that will provide him
9 a single cell without a cellmate. Plaintiff alleges the only way to insure a single cell
10 classification is to murder one's cellmate or be the victim of an in-cell assault. Plaintiff
11 filed inmate appeals regarding this situation and the appeals were denied. Plaintiff then
12 wrote a letter to the warden saying he was having thoughts of killing his cellmate. As a
13 result of the threat, Plaintiff was placed in the Administrative Housing Unit (AHU).
14 Plaintiff argues that being punished and placed in the AHU for threatening to kill his
15 cellmate violates his right to freedom of expression. Later Plaintiff began a hunger strike
16 and was again placed in the AHU. However, it is not entirely clear the relief Plaintiff
17 seeks. Plaintiff states his freedom of speech rights were violated, but he does not state if
18 he wants money damages or even that he seeks injunctive relief with respect to a single
19 cell. Regardless, the complaint will be dismissed with leave to amend as Plaintiff's has
20 failed to set forth a cognizable claim.

21 The Supreme Court has long recognized that "(l)awful incarceration brings about
22 the necessary withdrawal or limitation of many privileges and rights, a retraction justified
23 by the considerations underlying our penal system." Price v. Johnston, 334 U.S. 266, 285
24 (1948); see also Pell v. Procunier, 417 U.S. 817, 822 (1974); Wolff v. McDonnell, 418
25 U.S. 539, 555 (1974). "The fact of confinement and the needs of the penal institution
26 impose limitations on constitutional rights, including those derived from the First
27 Amendment, which are implicit in incarceration." Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners'
28 Labor Union Inc., 433 U.S. 119, 125 (1977). As stated in Pell, 417 U.S. at 822:

(A) prison inmate retains those First Amendment rights that are not inconsistent with his status as a prisoner or with the legitimate penological objectives of the corrections system. Thus, challenges to prison restrictions that are asserted to inhibit First Amendment interests must be analyzed in terms of the legitimate policies and goals of the corrections system, to whose custody and care the prisoner has been committed in accordance with due process of law.

Removing Plaintiff from his cell and placing him in the AHU after he threatened to kill his cellmate was a reasonable and wise decision on behalf of prison officials and preventing an inmate from killing his cellmate is a legitimate penological objective. Thus, Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate a First Amendment violation. Moreover, Plaintiff has no right to a certain classification status that will entitle him to a single cell. See Hernandez v. Johnston, 833 F.2d 1316, 1318 (9th Cir.1987) (quoting Moody v. Daggett, 429 U.S. 78, 88 n. 9 (1976), wherein the Supreme Court, in a footnote, explicitly rejected a claim that “prisoner classification and eligibility for rehabilitative programs in the federal system” invoked due process protections).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

The complaint is **DISMISSED** with leave to amend. Within **twenty-eight (28) days** of the date this order is filed, Plaintiff shall file an amended complaint using the court’s form complaint. The amended complaint must include the caption and civil case number used in this order and the words “AMENDED COMPLAINT” on the first page and write in the case number for this action, Case No. C 12-05898 EJD (PR). Plaintiff must answer all the questions on the form in order for the action to proceed.

Failure to respond in accordance with this order by filing an amended complaint will result in the dismissal of this action without prejudice and without further notice to Plaintiff.

The Clerk shall include two copies of the court’s complaint with a copy of this order to Plaintiff.

DATED: _____

EDWARD J. DAVILA
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ENRIQUE DIAZ,
Plaintiff,
v.

Case Number CV 12-05898 EJD (PR)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

R. BINKELE, et al.,
Defendants.

_____/

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on 1/29/2013, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Enrique Diaz
K-70268
P. O. Box 1050
Soledad, CA 93960

DATED: 1/29/2013

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
/s/ By: Elizabeth Garcia, Deputy Clerk